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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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The following report is a translation of the 25 October 1946

edition of the LAO RATSAMI newspaper printed by the French

at Pakse in the Lao language.

CPYRGHT

1.

"VICTORY IS UP TO JUSTICE"

We just learned that on the evening of 14 October the Siamese Parliament took a vote with a view to the annulment of the treaty of Tokyo of 1941. The result is 98 affirmative votes against 21 negative. Thus, the territories of Champasac and Saignabouri, which were stolen from us by Siam with the aid of Japan, will be returned to us.

Diplomatic discussions between France and Siam have been opened with a view to establishing conditions for the retrocession of these territories. Now, we can do nothing but await the results of this parley which can only be in our favor.

So it is that one says 'Victory is up to justice'. Thus after five years we will soon have the pleasure of seeing again our dear provinces which were so unjustly taken from us.

How could these provinces continue to remain under Siamese domination? How would their inhabitants manage to 'Siamize' themselves when their language, dress, ways and customs are 100% Lao and do not differ at all from those of the Laos of Luang Prabang, of Vientiane, of Pakse, of Champasac, of Saignabouri? Must they forget their Lao race? This is impossible. We know very well that these people have always been impatient to return to their true fatherland.

We will receive these compatriots with open arms; we will rejoice! They will come back soon to reoccupy their old places which have been vacant since they left. During these five years of separation they haven't been in contact with their great Lao country and don't know exactly what has been happening. They must learn that from now on Laos, which has been a victim of the war and a thousand

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other vicissitudes, is becoming more united than ever and is preparing to make up for things with other countries. The French kept their promise: after having liberated the country, thanks to the heroism of the Franco-Lao troops, they unified it and gave it a democratic government. From now on Laos can compare itself to the other countries of Indo China with its government composed of a council of ministers chosen in all the departments of the realm and responsible to the King. The French advisers are helping us in this important reform. A popular vote will soon be instituted with a view to the election of a house of representatives which will be the voice of the people. Aside from the few incidents arising on the right bank, all of Laos, without losing a minute, is beginning to work in the most perfect order. All the Laotians are happy to be working freely for the progress and the prosperity of the country. To honor these provinces which are coming back to us, we are going to lavish the greatest care on them, more than all the other provinces, so that they can be put on a level worthy of them. We await daily, hourly, the day when the wall which separates us from our compatriots will collapse. That day will be the great day for the free Lao country, the most momentous day for all Laotians.

Lao Chindamani"

2.

"ANNALS OF LUANG PRABANG

The city of Luang Prabang extends over the V formed by the Mekong and Nam Khane. Right in its midst there is a small hill called PHOUSY. Being the crossroads of landways and waterways, travellers have gone through it since olden days.

Olden Days: From the earliest days until the 13th century the history of Laos has been tied up with that of Muong Soua, the most important center of the Kingdom of Lang-Xang, from a political point of view.

According to the old annals, the Thais migrated toward the south and founded the principedom of Muong Soua. This principedom was founded by Khoun Lo. After this, Khoun Bourom, the father, divided the realm among his seven sons.

From the period of the division of the kingdom until the 14th century, the history of Muong Soua was only known by the names of its rulers who had the titles of 'Thao', 'Phia', 'Khoun'.

Afterwards, the capital which had been called Muong Soua changed its name to Xieng Dong and Xieng Thong and finally to Luang Prabang, the name given in honor of the statue of Buddha 'Phrabang', hero of the realm.

The first kings who ruled over the Laos were of Khmer, then Kah, origin. Later the Thais who came from Muong Theng, after having driven back the Khas, put the dynasty of 'Khouns' on the throne. These were vassals of Cambodia and Soukhoth. The last king of this dynasty was Souvannakhamphong.

From the 14th century on, Muong Soua became the capital of the Kingdom of Lang-Xang of which Chao Faghum was the unifier.

In 1553, King Setthathirath transferred the capital to Vientiane to be safe from the Burmese, his enemies.

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In 1707 the kingdom of Lang-Xang was divided into two parts, and Muong Soua became the capital of Luang Prabang. Then a period of trouble and civil wars started. In addition to these there was the Burmese invasion (1707) and that of the Laos (1864). The kingdoms of Luang Prabang and Vientiane emerged from this period of chaos as vassals of Siam (1836).

From the time of the Franco-Siamese treaty of 1893, signed at Bangkok, Laos was placed under a French protectorate until the real period of "LIBERTY".

3.

"ANNALS OF CHAMPASAC

The principedom of Champasac stretches out along the two shores of the Mekong from Heuane Nine to Liph and the Island of Khone.

Before the 14th century the Lao provinces of the south were part of the Khmer kingdom which was very well known and prosperous, with its sumptuous temple, Angkor Wat. The Khmers extended their rule over the shores of the Mekong beyond Cambodia itself. Around here there are the resplendent temples like Wat Phou on the 'Phou Kao' and Heuane Nine temple in ruins opposite Khemmarath.

The principedom of Champasac became part of the kingdom of Lang-Xang in the reign of Tiao Fangum.

As soon as this happened there were Kha revolts from time to time. At the end of the 16th century the partisan Khas of 'Phoumiboun' (prophet) revolted everywhere. Tiao Sethatirat, busy with the war against the Burmese, didn't fall back in the repression of the Khas, during which time he disappeared mysteriously in 1571.

At the beginning of the 18th century the kingdom of Lang-Xang was divided in two principedoms; that of Champasac, which was ruled by Tiao Soisisamouth, left the kingdom of Vientiane to go under Siamese domination.

In 1827, when Tiac Anou was overcome by the Siamese, the principedom of Champasac remained Siamese with its own government.

When Laos was placed under French protection in 1893, a part of the left bank of Champasac was given to the French. By the treaty of 1907 the principedom of Champasac was given to Laos with the exception of the province of Ubon.

The French government raised the old princes to the title of King of Champasac."

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